

Message Text

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53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-05

IO-10 OMB-01 OPR-01 NIC-01 /075 W

----- 026718

O 241714Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2243

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

/AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE 333

DIA WASHDC/AA-8/AH/DC-4

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINCUSAFE LINDSEY AB GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3058

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MIL, SY, IS, LE

SUBJECT: SYRIAN/LEBANON MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

REF: USCINCEUR 21493 (NOTAL) DTG O 241110Z DEC 74

1. REFTEL ASKS EVALUATION BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS OF STATE OF SYRIAN MILITARY ALERT.

2. EMBASSY SOURCE, RELIABLE IN PAST, STATES THAT SYRIAN ARMED FORCES WENT ON FULL ALERT EVENING DECEMBER 23. HE DEFINED THIS ALERT AS INCLUDING CANCELLATION PLANNED LEAVES, RECALL OF PERSONNEL ON LEAVE AND RESTRICTION ALL MILITARY PERSONNEL TO THEIR UNITS. SOURCE STATED THIS RESULT OF REPORTS THAT ISRAEL PLANS ATTACK SYRIA DURING MAJOR FOUR DAY MOSLEM HOLIDAY WHICH
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BEGAN SUNDOWN, DECEMBER 23.

3. UK AMBASSADOR ADVISES THAT SYRIAN SAM FORCES PUT ON ALERT
DECEMBER 22.

4. WE NOTE FEW MILITARY IN DOWNTOWN DAMASCUS THIS EVENING BUT
UNABLE ASSESS THIS SIGNIFICANT IN VIEW LOCAL CUSTOM WHICH
REQUIRES FAMILY MEMBERS TO CELEBRATE FEAST AT HOME. SYRIAN
AIRFORCE DID PATROL SKIES OVER DAMASCUS THROUGH EARLY AFTERNOON
BUT NOT RPT NOT IN UNUSUAL NUMBERS.

5. ATMOSPHERE OF CITY FESTIVE IN TRADITION SYRIAN OBSERVANCE
MAJOR RELIGIOUS FEAST: NEIGHBORHOOD AMUSEMENT PARKS IN FULL SWING
AND VARIOUS EXPLOSIVES GOING OFF ALL OVER CITY THROUGHOUT DAY.
SOUK STILL HALF OPEN TODAY WITH POPULATION MAKING LAST MINUTE
PURCHASES FOR EXTENDED HOLIDAY.
MURPHY

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